

Making Pack for Sensibilities on the Bonnet

We are inviting you to join an exploration of the lives of Winchester's working women. This summer, The Arc will present *'Beyond the Bonnets'*, a specially created exhibition for the landmark 250th year since the birth of Jane Austen. Through Austen's works, her letters, archival documents, historical objects and an absorbing, immersive soundscape, encounter Georgian women in domestic service - so frequently footnotes in the narrative - and those who owned and ran their own business. Sift facts, fiction and sensibilities to give a voice to these lives lived in the background.

Commissioned to accompany *'Beyond the Bonnets'*, we are crafting an installation set to champion stories from the driving force of Winchester: working women. In our exhibition, *'Sensibilities on the Bonnet'*, the mechanical is more than just a metaphor.

Atop the City Space gallery, a giant crochet engine held fast by two improbably proportioned legs will find its energy source in local stories. While three bright bonnets receive maintenance from three unforgettable female figures. Whether fixing, growing or painting, they can't help but grab attention. Will your eyes be drawn more by the brightness of their heads or the skill of their work?

Leading the project, artist Joshua Raffell is crocheting, chatting and collaborating his way through the spokes and sparks of struggles and successes taking place beneath the bonnet of our city, but he needs your help! This pack gives you a guide to creating an image of an inspiring woman with connections to Winchester to exhibit. Help us unveil what really fuels our society.

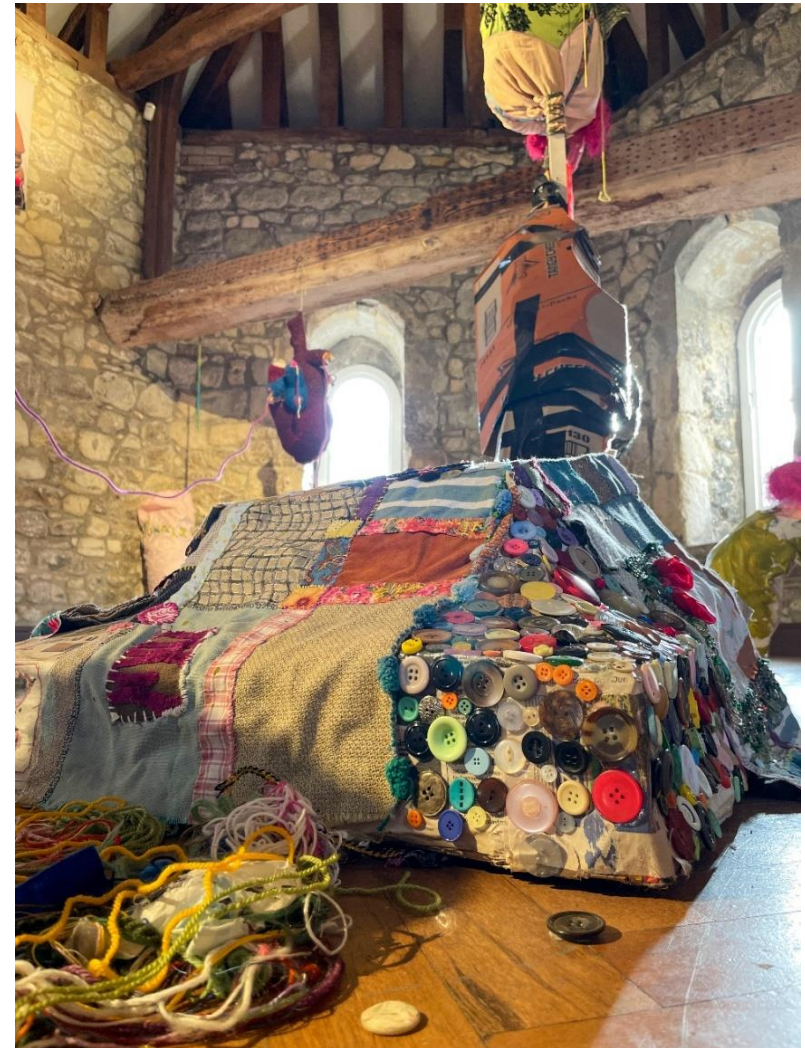
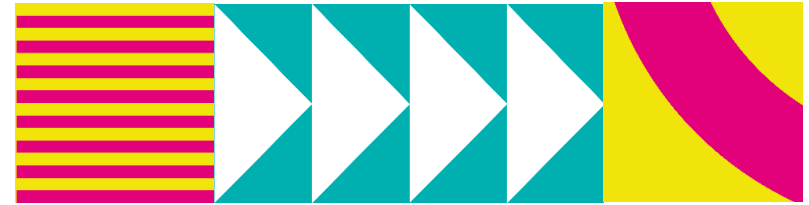
Exhibition open 17 July - 7 September 2025
City Space, The Arc, Winchester.

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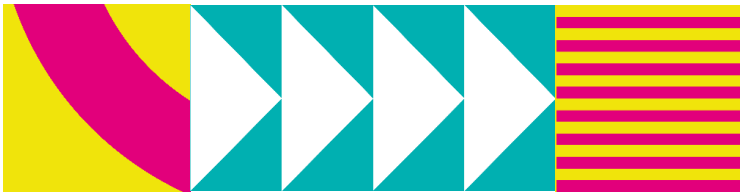


'Nonsuch Memory Of My Birth' by Joshua Raffell
@ God's House Tower, Southampton, 2024

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Joshua Raffell 'The Apprentice's Box'
@ ASPEX Gallery, Portsmouth, 2024



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How can I join in?

All ages and abilities can take part in this self-led activity. The instructions in this pack should answer all your questions on how to make and submit your artwork.

Instructions

Create an image of an inspiring woman with connections to Winchester. This could be your mum, a family member, a work colleague, a friend or well known or famous person from either the past or present.

Your pictures can be as simple or as complicated as you'd like to make them – even choosing one colour to represent the inspirational woman you are drawing would be enough. Have fun and enjoy creating your artworks!

The work is intended to be added to the finished sculptures in Joshua Raffell's installation, as such they cannot be returned.

Preferably the work will be A5 in size, but rule breakers will be included wherever possible. The work will not be displayed on flat surfaces so may become distorted.

The artwork can be created in any 2D medium, eg paint, pencil, felt tip, crayon, print, photography, collage, needlework, textiles, crochet... to name a few. Go on, surprise us! Your work can be signed or unsigned.

We've created three categories to inspire your artwork – choose one or make one for each!

- Portrait – a portrait style picture, looking at who this woman is, her / their life story and what makes her / them an amazing person!
- Graffiti or calligraphy – the woman's first name written in whatever style matches her / their story.
- A combination or abstraction of the woman's portrait and first name – draw the feeling or spirit of this woman and how you relate to her / them.
- Be creative; invent your own category!

How to submit your work?

Deadline – Saturday 14 June 2025 at the Information Desk at The Arc, Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8SB. Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm/Sun 11am-5pm